

311 History of Preterm Delivery

Definition/Cut-off Value

History of preterm delivery is defined as the birth of an infant at ≤ 37 weeks gestation for the following:

Category	Pregnancy
Pregnant Women	Any history of preterm delivery
Breastfeeding/Non-Breastfeeding	Most recent pregnancy

Participant Category and Priority Level

Category	Priority
Pregnant Women	I
Breastfeeding Women	I
Non-Breastfeeding Women	III, IV, V or VI

Justification

Preterm birth causes at least 75% of neonatal deaths not due to congenital malformations (1). In most cases of preterm labor, the cause is unknown. Epidemiologic studies have consistently reported low socioeconomic status, nonwhite race, maternal age of ≤ 18 years or ≥ 40 years, and low prepregnancy underweight as risk factors. A history of one previous preterm birth is associated with a recurrent risk of 17-37% (2, 3); the risk increases with the number of prior preterm births and decreases with the number of term deliveries.

References

1. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Preterm Labor. Technical Bulletin 206. Washington, DC: ACOG, 1995.
2. Hoffman HJ, Bakketeig LS. Risk factors associated with the occurrence of preterm birth. Clin. Obstet. Gynecol. 1984; 27:539-52.
3. Keirse MJNC, Rush RW, Anderson AB, Turnbull AC. Risk of preterm delivery in patients with a previous preterm delivery and/or abortion. Br. J. Obstet. Gynecol. 1978; 85:81-85.